

A NEW GENUS AND TWO NEW SPECIES OF
NEOTROPICAL CHARIESTERINI(HEMIPTERA: COREIDAE)¹THOMAS R. YONKE,² *Department of Entomology, University of Missouri,
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ABSTRACT—A new genus, *Ruckesius*, and two new species, *R. medleri* and *R. kapleri*, are described from Paraguay and Bolivia, respectively. *Ruckesius* is placed in the coreid tribe Chariesterini near *Chariesterus* to which it is most allied. A key to the four genera of Chariesterini is provided.

Much work is needed on the alpha taxonomy of the Coreidae. The family has been largely neglected in the last 100 years, since the work of Carlos Stål who in 1867 erected the tribe Chariesterini. In their catalogue of the Hemiptera, Lethierry and Severin (1894) listed eight species of *Chariesterus*, seven of *Plapigus*, and one of *Staluptus*. Four species of *Chariesterus* have since been described (Fracker, 1919; Van Duzee, 1937; and Ruckes, 1955). Of the 22 species of Chariesterini, including the two described here, only four are known to occur in the Nearctic region and of these only one, *Chariesterus antennator* (Fab.), is exclusively Nearctic. The rest are Neotropical.

Ruckesius, n. gen.

Elongate, slender bugs about 12 mm long or less, somewhat dorso-ventrally flattened; light brown in color; generally devoid of spines; body densely covered with blunt-tipped setae; length of antennae about $\frac{1}{2}$ that of body, first antennal segment triquetral, second slender cylindrical, third foliaceous, fourth incrassate acuminate; labium extending to mesosternum; distinct labial groove in pro- and mesosterna; pronotum elongate, humeral width nearly twice basal width; antero-lateral pronotal spines well developed; lateral carinae entire; humeri rounded, not produced; pronotum and propleura sparsely punctate; scutellum longer than wide; metathoracic scent apparatus with reduced evaporative area; hemelytra extending to near tip of abdomen; abdomen elongate somewhat dorso-ventrally flattened; legs devoid of spines.

Type-species: *Ruckesius medleri*, n. sp.

This genus is most closely related to *Chariesterus* Laporte, and is therefore placed in the tribe Chariesterini to which it is readily keyed in Stål (1867), as in the key below.

The genus is named in honor of the late Dr. Herbert Ruckes who has published the most recent work on the species of *Chariesterus*

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(Ruckes, 1955) and who had examined one specimen in the C. J. Drake collection labelling it a new genus and species. He, however, never described it.

KEY TO THE GENERA OF CHARISTERINI

1. Antennal segment I triquetral, almost equally incrassate throughout length; pronotal collar absent 2
 Antennal segment I cylindrical for $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ its length, apically incrassate; pronotal collar distinct 3
2. Anterior lateral pronotal spine prominent; humeral angles rounded, not produced; length of antennae $\frac{1}{2}$ that of body; antennal segment I devoid of spines *Ruckesius* Yonke
 Anterior lateral pronotal margin rounded, not spined; humeral angles prominently dentate, acuminate, or acute; length of antennae subequal to that of body; antennal segment I usually bearing thick spines at triquetral angles *Chariesterus* Laporte
3. Humeral angles acute; antennal segment I longer than II, segment III strongly foliaceous *Plapigus* Stål
 Humeral angles rounded or obtuse; antennal segments I and II subequally long, segment III narrowly foliaceous *Staluptus* Stål

Ruckesius medleri, n. sp.

(Fig. 1)

Body slender, somewhat flattened, length of female 8.48 mm, humeral width 1.60 mm; abdominal width 2.20 mm; light brown except alternating fuscous and yellowish bands on connexivum, antennal dilation of segment III fuscous; short blunt white setae profuse over entire body, antennal segments I, II, and III, and legs; antennae one-half body length; antero-lateral spines large, blunt tipped, projecting forward beyond anterior pronotal margin; humeri broadly rounded; legs devoid of spines.

Head.—Elongate, nearly cylindrical, 1.28 mm long, outer ocular width 0.92 mm, inner ocular width 0.60 mm, inner ocellar width 0.31 mm, median fovea extending from base of tylus to between ocelli, small pit in front of each ocellus; no post-antennal tubercles; antenniferous tubercles prominent, broadly rounded on inner apical margin, extending well beyond jugae; jugae only slightly exceeding tylus; ocelli farther from each other than from compound eyes; length from ocellus to tip of antenniferous tubercle 0.94 mm; bucculae short, extending to less than $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head to vertical midline of compound eye, posterior face of bucculae open; venter forming shallow labial groove; labium reaching middle of mesosternum, length of labial segments: I—0.59 mm, II—0.59 mm, III—0.51 mm, IV—0.43 mm; antennal segment I stout, moderately triquetral; segment II slender cylindrical; segment III foliaceous, width of dilation 0.56 mm; antennal segment IV incrassate, then acuminate distally; length of antennal segments: I—1.28 mm, II—1.20 mm, III—1.28 mm, IV—0.60 mm.

Thorax.—Pronotum 1.76 mm long, slightly longer than humeral width and twice as long as basal pronotal width (0.88 mm); lateral pronotal margin carinate, entire, with antero-lateral spine projecting along head; collar absent; pronotum with median carina, large tubercle on either side of carina anterior to posterior

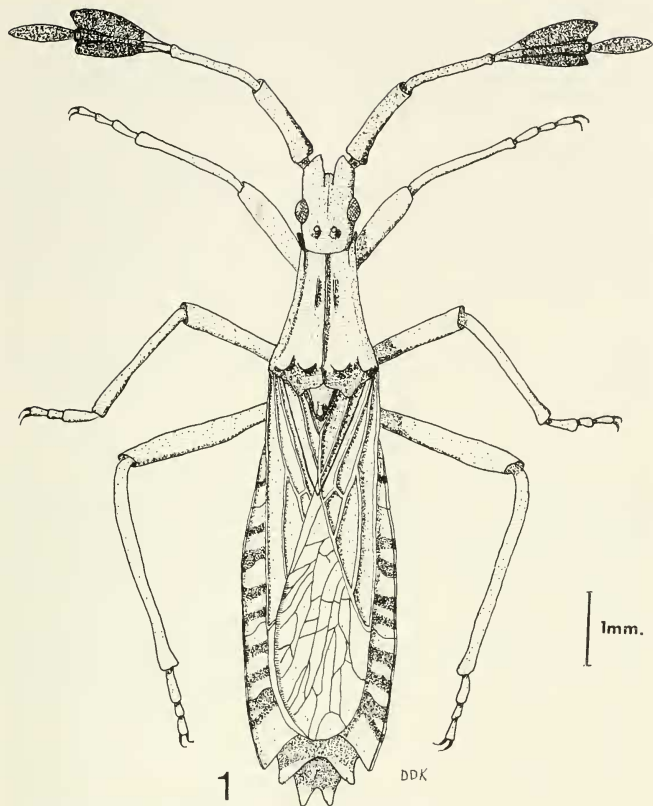


Fig. 1. *Ruckesius medleri*, n. sp., dorsal view, female holotype.

pronotal margin; humeri broadly rounded; posterior angle distinct on either side of scutellum and reflexed between angles; scutellum longer (0.62 mm) than basal width (0.47 mm) with median and lateral carina distinct; disc and propleura sparsely punctate; propleura oblique; labial groove distinct but shallow on prosternum, deeply grooved in anterior half of mesosternum, less so in posterior half; metathoracic scent apparatus opening laterally, peritreme absent from posterior half, prominently raised disc anterior to ostiole with groove extending from vestibule to near apex of disc, a narrow band of evaporative cuticle extending around

ostiole and disc; femora simple, gradually stouter apically; tibiae slender, cylindrical; hemelytra extending to just beyond seventh tergite.

Abdomen.—Connexivum from tergites 3–7 well exposed, each with 1 or 2 fuscous bands alternating with dull yellow bands; spiracles on sternites 3–7 one-third distant from anterior margin of respective segments, slightly less displaced from lateral margin.

Holotype. Female, labelled “Grand Chaco, Paraguay, 59–40, W. 22–23, N.; 260 Km West Paraguay River, VI–10–1936; Alberto Schulze; J. C. Lutz collection.” (In United States National Museum, Type No. 71755). Paratypes: 2 females, same label data as holotype, both deposited in the collection of the USNM. Males are presently unknown. Labels on the three specimens are obviously incorrect in the designation of “22–23, N.” and probably should read 22°23', S.

This species is named in honor of my former mentor, Dr. John T. Medler of the University of Wisconsin who, through his encouragement and direction, was initially responsible for my interest in the Hemiptera.

***Ruckesius kapleri*, n. sp.**

Body slender, somewhat flattened, length of female 11.40 mm, humeral width 2.07 mm, abdominal width 2.90 mm; light brown except for fuscous and yellowish areas on connexivum, antennal dilation of segment III fuscous; short blunt setae profuse over entire body, antennal segments I, II, and III, and legs; antennae over one-half as long as body, antero-lateral spines large, blunt tipped, projecting forward beyond anterior pronotal margin; humeri broadly rounded; legs devoid of spines.

Head.—Elongate cylindrical, 1.40 mm long, outer ocular width 1.10 mm, inner ocular width 0.75 mm, inner ocellar width 0.38 mm, median fovea extending from base of tylus to between ocelli, a small pit in front of each ocellus; no post-antennal tubercles; antenniferous tubercles prominent, acute on inner apical margin; length from ocellus to tip of antenniferous tubercle 1.18 mm; bucculae short, extending almost $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head to posterior margin of compound eye; labium reaching mesosternum, length of labial segments: I—1.00 mm, II—0.75 mm, III—0.60 mm, IV—0.50 mm; antennal segment I stout, moderately triquetral; segment II slender, cylindrical; segment III foliaceous, width of dilation 0.65 mm; segment IV incrassate, then acuminate distally; length of antennal segments: I—2.20 mm, II—1.75 mm, III—1.50 mm, IV—1.30 mm.

Thorax.—Pronotum 2.50 mm long, longer than humeral width, over twice as long as basal pronotal width (1.07 mm); lateral pronotal margin carinate, entire, with antero-lateral spine projecting along head; collar absent; pronotum with median carina, large tubercle on either side of carina anterior to posterior pronotal margin; humeri broadly rounded; posterior angle distinct on either side of scutellum and reflexed between angles; scutellum longer (0.85 mm) than basal width (0.60 mm) with median and lateral carina distinct; disc and propleura punctate; labial groove extending through mesosternum; metathoracic scent apparatus opening laterally, paritreme present on posterior half on dorsal margin above ostiole, a raised oval disc anterior to ostiole with groove extending from vestibule to top

of disc, a narrow band of evaporative cuticle extending around ostiole and disc; femora simple, gradually stouter apically; tibiae slender, cylindrical; hemelytra extending to tip of abdomen.

Abdomen.—Connexivum broad with fuscous bands; spiracles on sternites 3–7 one-third distant from anterior margin of respective segments, slightly less displaced from lateral margin.

Holotype: Female, labelled “Cochambamba, Bolivia; 20–III–1950; M. Zischka”; C. J. Drake collection. (In United States National Museum, Type No. 71756). No males are presently known.

This species is named in honor of Dr. Joseph Kapler, my former undergraduate advisor in Biology at Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, who encouraged me to pursue graduate work in entomology.

KEY TO SPECIES OF *Ruckesius*

- Antennal segments I and III subequal, each subequal to length of head;
outer apical angle of antennal dilation III acute (fig. 1) *medleri* Yonke
- Antennal segment I much longer than either antennal segment III or head;
outer apical angle of antennal dilation III rounded *kapleri* Yonke

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